

Cultural references in the German and Spanish translations of Bulgakov's *A Dog's Heart* from the seventies to the nineties. Towards a model of transmission of culture in translation

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The History of Translation Reasoning

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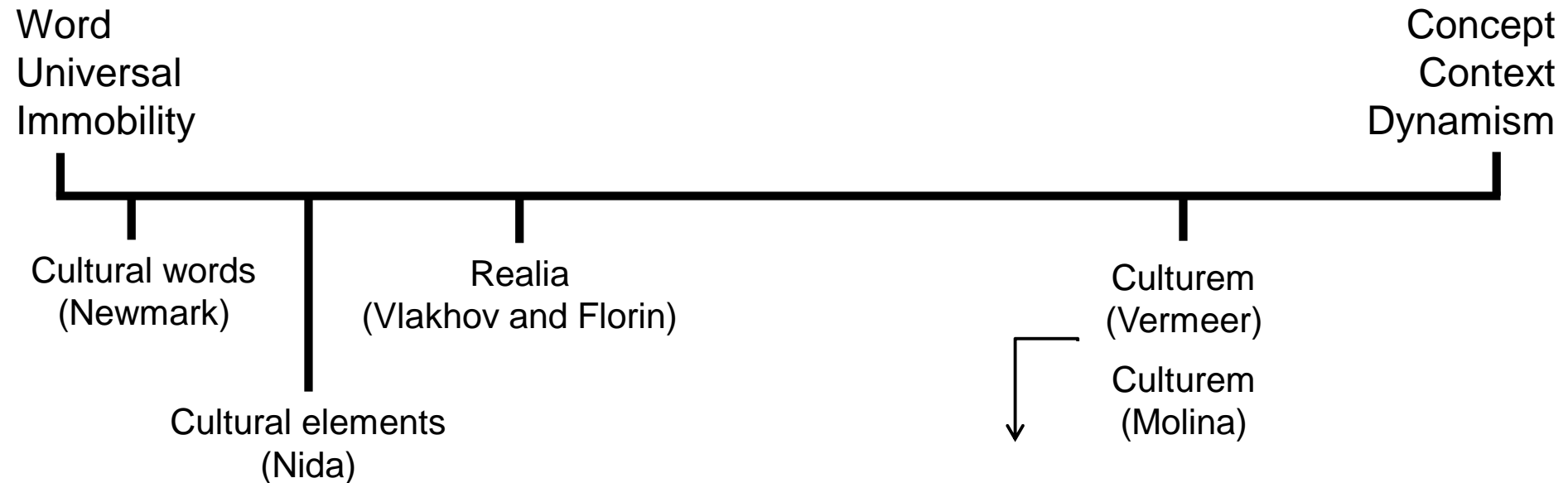
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1. Motivation of the study

- *Culturem Translation in relation to translation competence acquisition* (Olalla, 2010).
 - Age
 - Source culture
- Concept of dynamism in translation
 - Dynamism: why and how

2. Dynamism in translation and culture

Dynamic conception of cultural references in Translation Studies:



“a social phenomenon of a culture X which is understood as relevant for the members of that culture, and compared to the respective phenomenon of a culture Y, is perceived as specific of culture X”

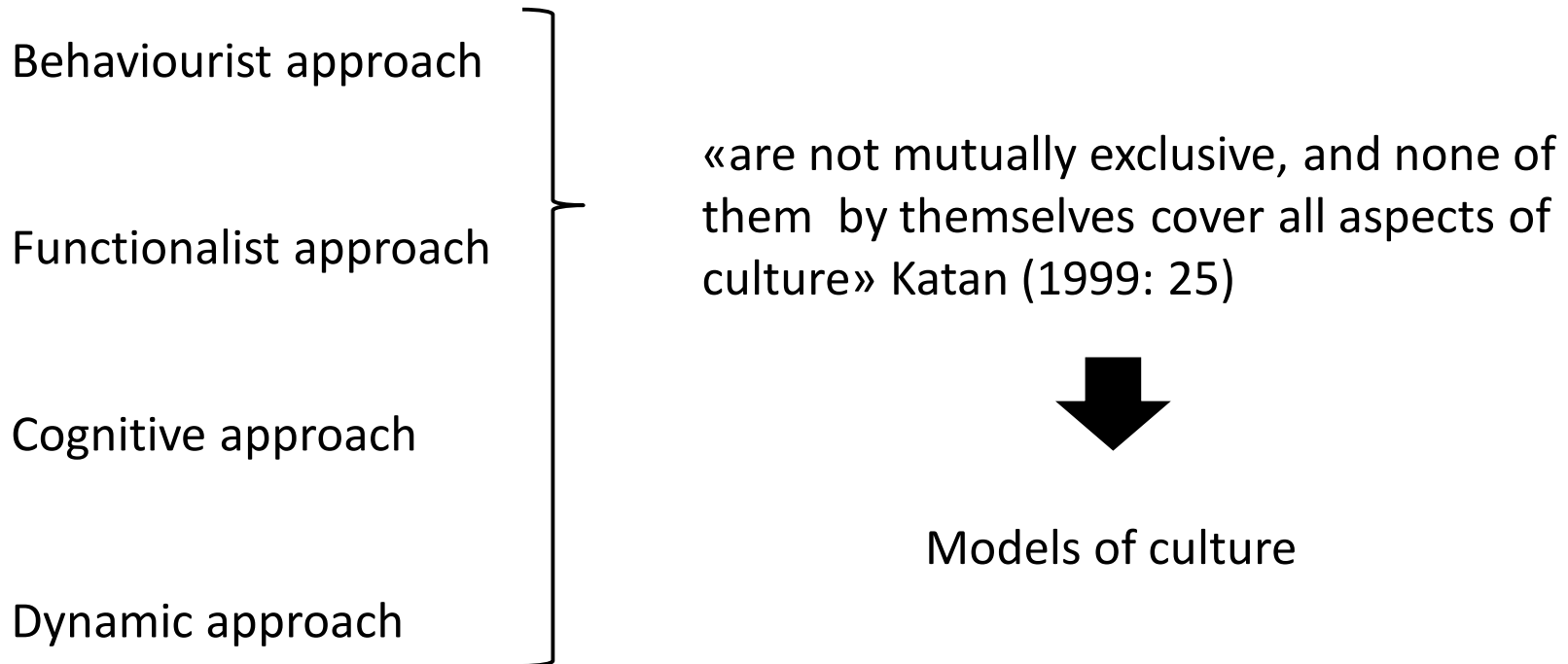
2. Dynamism in translation and culture

Approaches to the concept of culture:

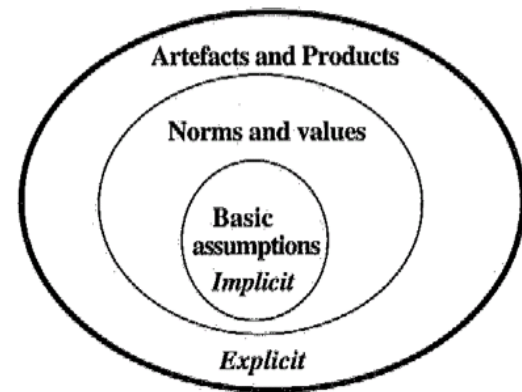
- **Behaviourist approach:** based on behaviours or sets of discrete behaviours, shared and observed;
- **Functionalist approach:** based on shared rules underlying behaviour, and observable through behaviour.
- **Cognitive approach:** based on the form of things that people have in mind, their models of perceiving, relating and interpreting them;
- **Dynamic approach:** based on the dynamic interplay of internal models and external mechanisms.

(Robinson, 1988: 7-13)

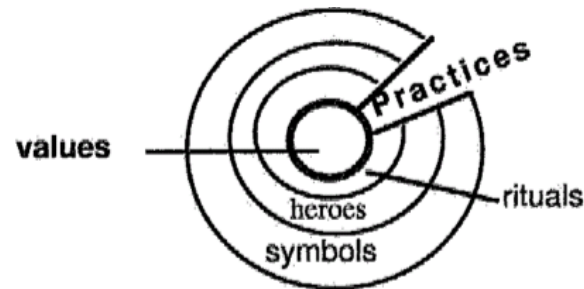
2. Dynamism in translation and culture



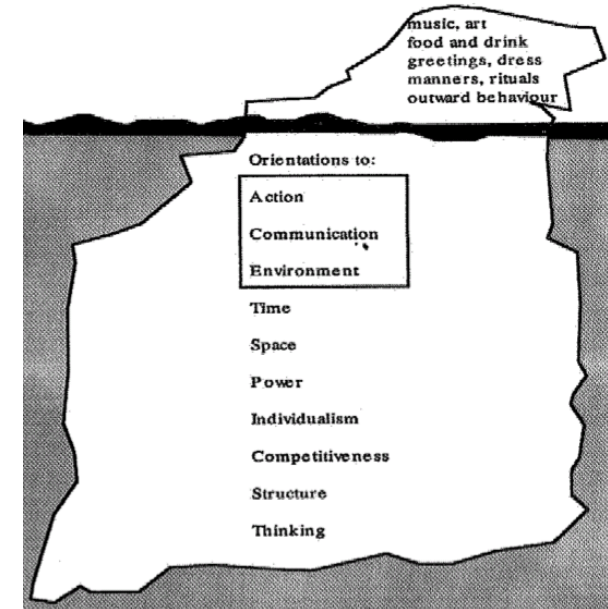
2. Dynamism in translation and culture



Trompenaars' layers (1993)



Hofstede's onion (1991:7, 9)



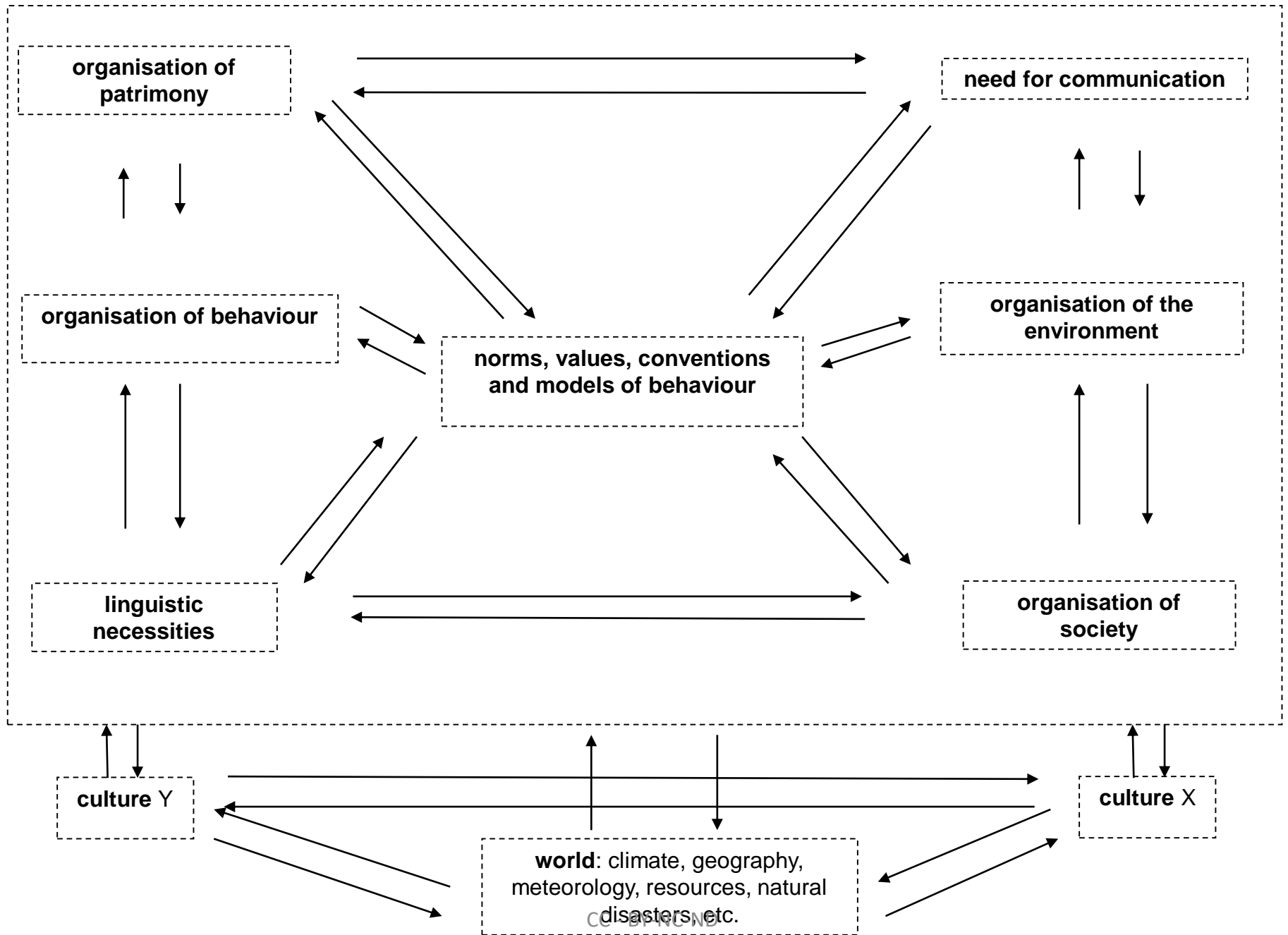
Hall's iceberg (1959)

(Illustrations from: Katan, 1999: 26, 27, 30)

2. Dynamism in translation and culture

Culture:

“a culture is a system of norms, values, conventions and models of behaviour developed in a cognitive context that allows a society to perceive and modify the natural and artificial world in a particular way and that develops subsystems for the organisation of behaviour, environment, patrimony, society, linguistic necessities and its need for communication through the contact with other systems and through evolution of the same system as the perceived world also evolves.”
(Olalla, 2012: 24)

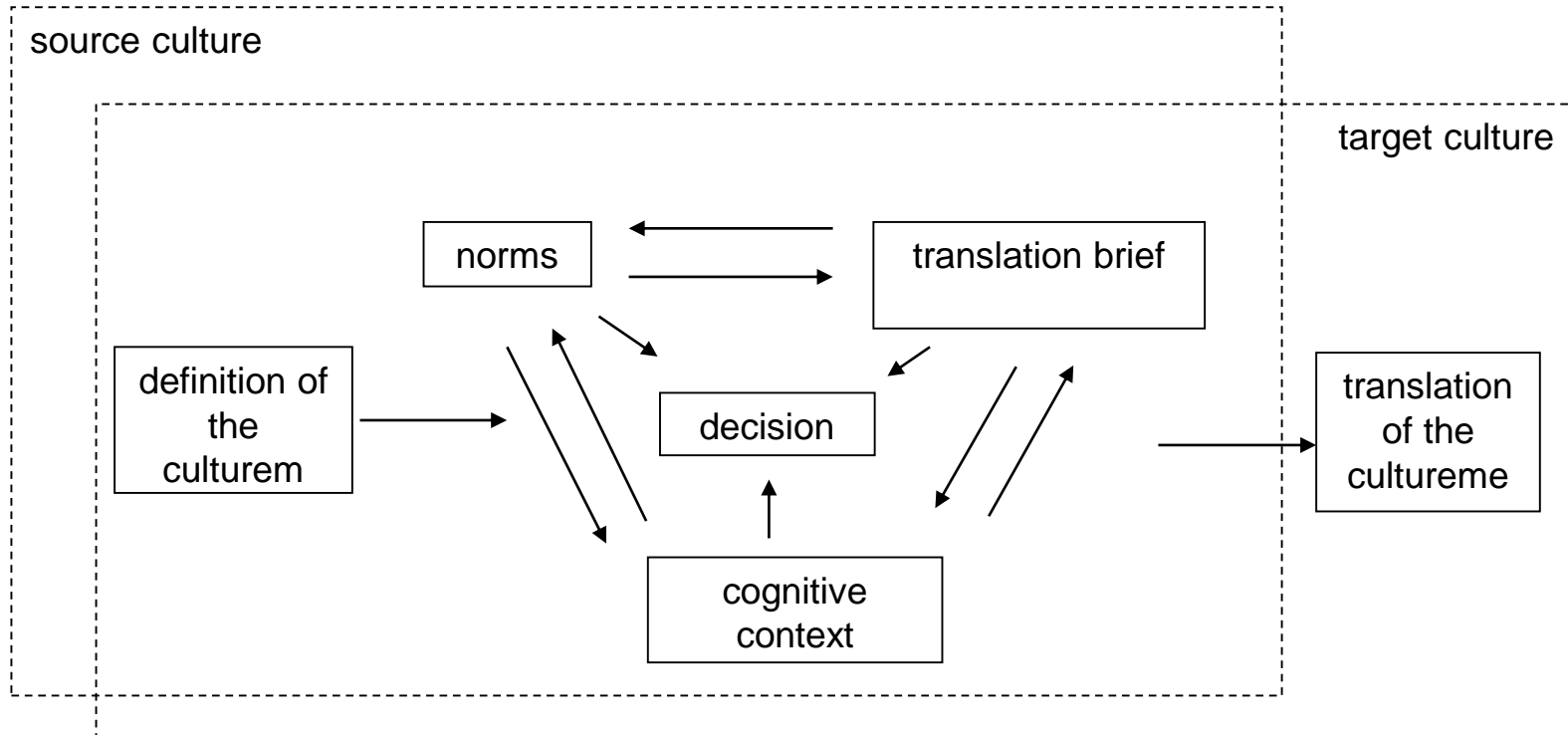


2. Dynamism in translation and culture

- **Applying the model to translation:**
 - Definition of a culture in a bicultural system
 - Dynamic negotiation of sense
 - Norms
 - Initial
 - Preliminary
 - Translation brief
 - Text type
 - Translation aim
 - Translation's target reader
 - Cognitive context
 - Distance in time
 - Distance between cultures

2. Dynamism in translation and culture

- **Cognitive context:**
 - **Distance in time:** “distance in time between the cultural reference and the moment of translation”
 - **Distance between cultures:** “grade of presence of a culture in another one in a specific moment in time”



The study

3. The study - Hypotheses

– Theoretical hypothesis

- Culturems are dynamic.

– Research hypotheses

- There is a connection between the distance between cultures **from which** and **to which** is translated and the translation techniques used for the translation of culturems.
- There is a connection between the distance between the cultural reference, the moment of its translation and the techniques used for the translation of culturems.

3. The study - Hypotheses

– Operational hypotheses

- The culturems of *A Dog's Heart* translated into German will be less explicit.
- The culturems of *A Dog's Heart* translated into Spanish will be more explicit.
- The translations of the culturems of *A Dog's Heart* which are temporary closer to the Soviet Union will be less explicit.
- The translations of the culturems of *A Dog's Heart* which are temporary further from the Soviet Union will be more explicit.

→ First trial of the model of dynamic negotiation of sense in translation

3. The study - Methodology

- **Empirical-observational approach**
 - Descriptive study
 - Identification and classification of the culturems;
 - Identification of the translation techniques used for the translation of the culturems;
 - Identification of the explicitation in the solutions given for the translation of the culturems.

3. The study - Corpus

- ***A Dog's Heart*, Mikhail Bulgakov**
 - Mikhail Bulgakov (Kiev, 1881 – Moscow, 1940);
 - Written in 1925;
 - Set in Moscow during the NEP;
 - Satire

3. The study - Corpus

- **Translations into Spanish:**
- Bulgákov, Mijaíl (1974). *Corazón de perro*. San Vicente, Ricardo (trad.). Barcelona: Editorial Labor.
- Bulgakov, Mijail (1989). *Corazón de perro*. Cazcarra, Vicente; S. Kriúkova, Helena (trads.) Madrid: Alfaguara.
- Bulgákov, Mijaíl (1999). *Corazón de perro. La isla púrpura*. San Vicente, Ricardo (trad.). Barcelona: Galaxia Gutenberg.

3. The study - Corpus

- **Translations into German:**
- Bulgakow, M. (1968). *Hundeherz. Aufzeichnungen eines Toten*. Drohla, Gisela (trad.). Berlin: Hermann Luchterband Verlag.
- Bulgakow, M. (1988) *Hundeherz*. Reschke, Thomas (trad.). Berlin: Verlag Volk und Welt.
- Bulgakow, M (1997). *Hundeherz*. Reschke, Thomas (trad.). München: Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag.

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Distance between cultures**
 - **Concept:** grade of presence of a culture in another one in a specific moment in time.
 - **Use:**
 - **Distance between the Russian and German cultures:** smaller than the Russian-Spanish
 - **Distance between the Russian and Spanish cultures:** bigger than the Russian-German

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Distance in time**

- **Concept:** distance in time between the cultural reference and the moment of perception

- **Use:**

- **1925– 1st translation** (DE: 1968, ES: 1974)
 - **1925 – translation in the 80s**(DE: 1988, ES: 1989)
 - **1925 – translation in the 90s** (DE: 1997, ES: 1999)

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Classification of culturems (Molina, 2001):**
 - **Natural environment:** flora, fauna, climate, atmospheric phenomena, landscapes, place names, etc.
 - **Cultural patrimony:** characters (historical and fictitious), historical facts, religions, festivities, popular beliefs, folklore, monuments, fine arts, games, proper names, tools and objects, musical instruments, agricultural and farming techniques, urbanism, military strategies, transportation, etc.
 - **Social culture:** conventions and social habits, politeness and honorific language, eating manners, dressing and talking, fashion and clothing, moral values, gestures and greetings, etc.
 - **Social organization:** political, legal and educational systems, occupation, calendar, measure units, etc.
 - **Linguistic culture:** transliterations, proverbs, idioms, accepted metaphors, interjections, curse words, etc.

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Cultural interference:** interference which contains cultural elements of the target culture in the source text.

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Classification of translation techniques (Molina and Hurtado Albir, 2001):**

Adaptation

Linguistic amplification

Amplification

Linguistic compression

Borrowing

Literal translation

Calque

Modulation

Compensation

Particularization

Description

Reduction

Discursive creation

Substitution

Established equivalent

Transposition

Generalization

Variation

3. The study – analytical instruments

- **Explicitation:**

- **Concept:** translation strategy which consists of making explicit the implicatures of an original proposition with the means of the target language so that the reader can recover the basic information needed to infer the interpretation of the proposition as the original recipient would.

- **Use:**

- + explicitation: 1
 - No explicitation: 0

3. The study – examples of culturems

15	Source text (2010: 295)	Category
	[...] наградил пса вторым куском, поменьше, ЗОЛОТНИКОВ НА ПЯТЬ .	1. social culture
	Spanish translations	Technique(s) + explicitations
1974: 12	[...] premió al can con un segundo trozo algo menor que el anterior, de unos veinte gramos .	1. adaptation
		1. 1
1989: 20	[...] le premió con otro trozo de salchichón. Esta vez un poco más pequeño: de unos cinco zolotniks ¹ . 1 Zolotnik, antigua medida rusa equivalente a 4,25 gramos. (N. de los T.)	1. naturalized borrowing, amplification
		1. 1
1999: 43	[...] premió al can con un segundo trozo algo menor que el anterior, de unos veinte gramos .	1. adaptation
		1. 1
	German translations	Technique(s) + explicitations
1968: 16	[...] belohnte er den Hund mit einem zweiten, etwas kleineren Stück Wurst von ungefähr einem Lot .	1. adaptation
		1. 1
1988: 13	[...] belohnte er den Hund mit einem zweiten Stück Wurst, kleiner, an zwanzig Gramm .	1. adaptation
		1. 1
1997: 13	[...] belohnte er den Hund mit einem zweiten Stück Wurst, kleiner, an zwanzig Gramm . CC - BY-NC-ND	1. adaptation
		1. 1

3. The study – examples of culturems

27	Source text (2010: 309)	Category
	[...] пришли к вам после общего собрания жильцов дома, на котором стоял вопрос об уплотнении квартир дома...	1. cultural patrimony
	Spanish translations	Technique(s) + explicitations
1974: 29	[...] y hemos venido a verle después de una asamblea general de vecinos, en la que se ha planteado la cuestión de los apartamentos de la casa .	1. generalisation
		1. 0
1989: 47	[...] hemos venido a verle después de la reunión del colectivo de vecinos, en la que se puso sobre el tapete la necesidad de compartir los pisos de la casa...	1. description
		1. 1
1999: 57	[...] y hemos venido a verle después de una asamblea general de vecinos, en la que se ha puesto la cuestión de los apartamentos de la casa .	1. generalisation
		1. 0
	German translations	Technique(s) + explicitations
1968: 36	»und wir kommen von der Generalversammlung der Hausbewohner, auf der die Frage der Einweisung weiterer Miter stand...«	1. description
		1. 1
1988: 31	»Wir [...] kommen zu Ihnen nach der Mieterversammlung unseres Hauses, auf der die Frage der Wohnraumverkleinerung in unserm Hause stand...«	1. calque
		1. 0
1997: 30	»Wir [...] kommen zu Ihnen nach der Mieterversammlung unseres Hauses, auf der die Frage der Wohnraumverkleinerung in unserm Hause stand...«	1. calque
		1. 0

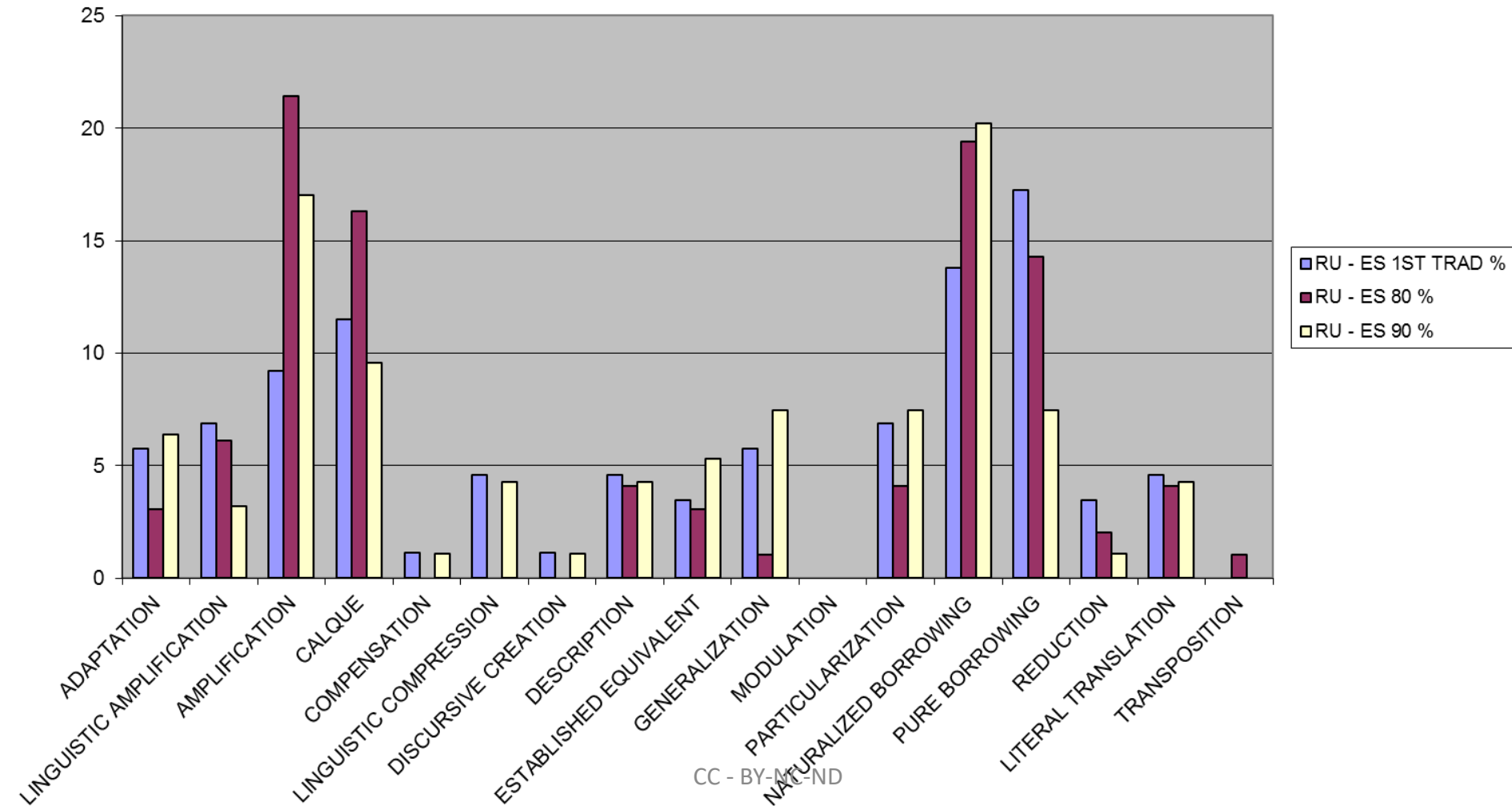
3. The study – examples of culturems

47	Source text (2010: 344)	Category
	Пойдите на Кузнецкий — все в лаковых.	1. natural environment



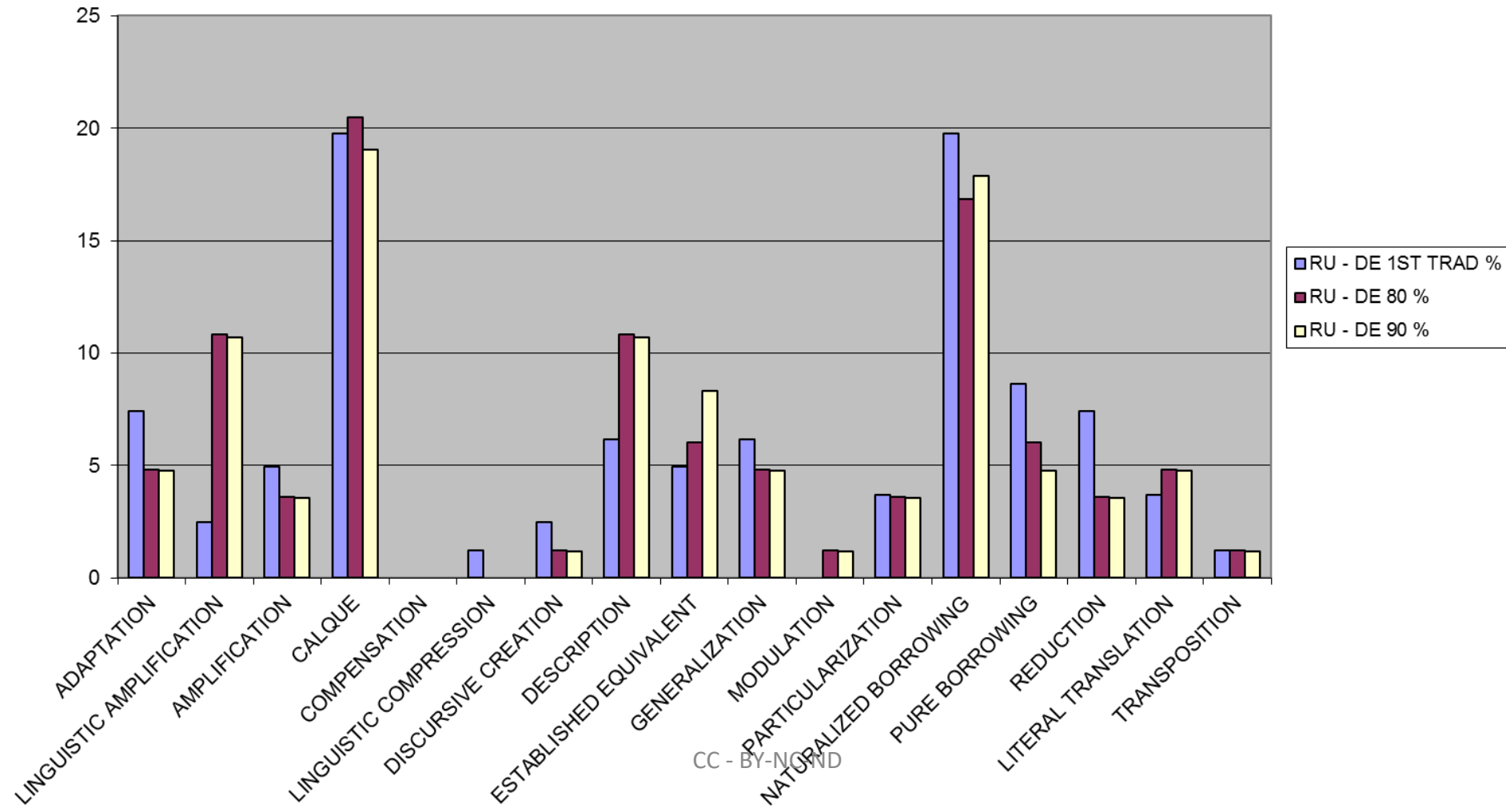
3. The study - Results

- Techniques: evolution in the distance between Russian and Spanish cultures



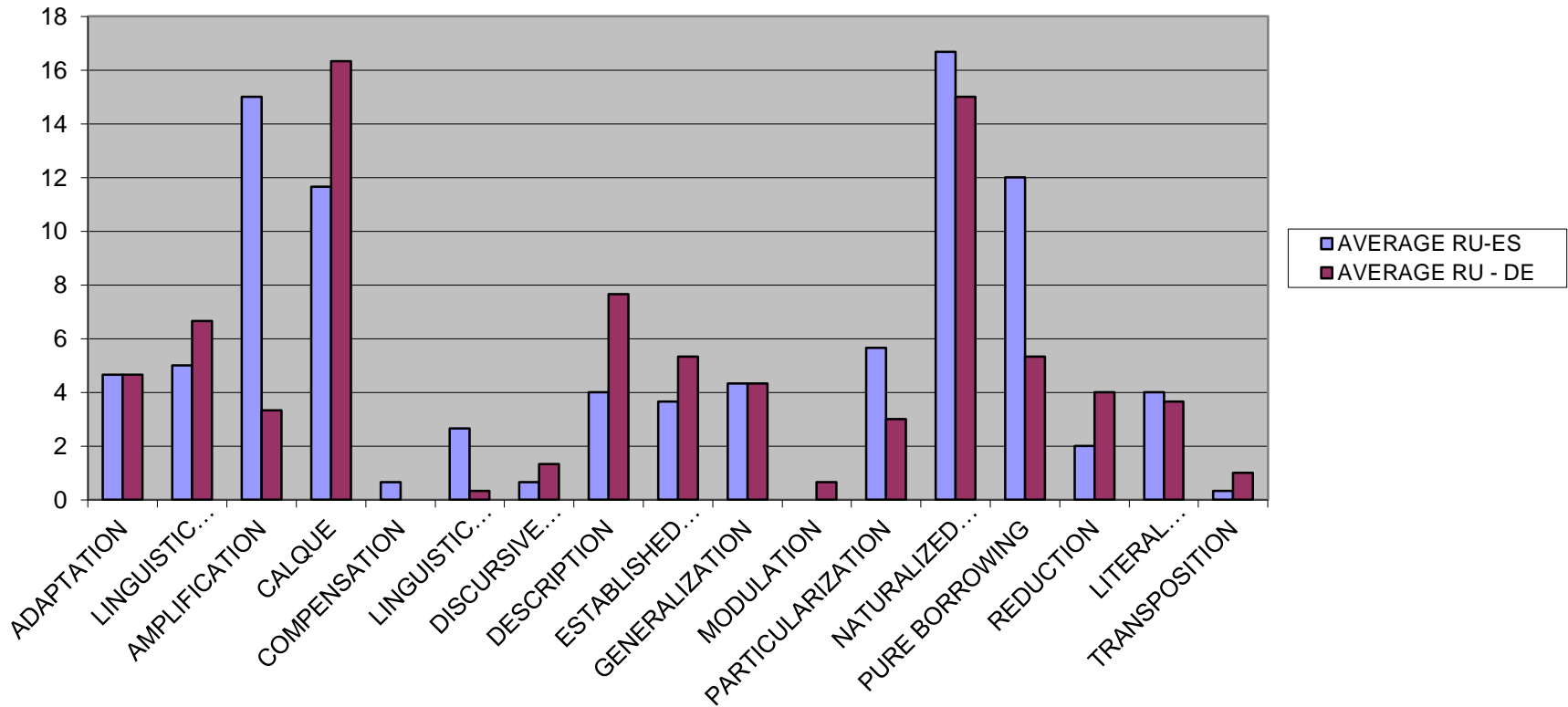
3. The study - Results

- Techniques: evolution in the distance between Russian and German cultures



3. The study - Results

- **Techniques: average of use in both distances between cultures**



3. The study - Results

- **Explicitation: average in both distances between cultures**

TRANSLATION	NAT. ENVIRONMENT	CULT. PATRIMONY	SOCIAL CULTURE	LINGUISTIC CULTURE	INTERFERENCE	AVERAGE
1ST TRAD RU - ES	0,222222222	0,322580645	0,24	0,3	0	0,276316
80 RU - ES	0,222222222	0,322580645	0,4	0,4	0	0,342105
90 RU -ES	0,222222222	0,516129032	0,36	0,4	0	0,407895
1ST TRAD RU - DE	0,222222222	0,193548387	0,222222222	0,142857143	0	0,194805
80 RU - DE	0,222222222	0,258064516	0,307692308	0	0	0,236842
90 RU - DE	0,333333333	0,290322581	0,307692308	0	0	0,263158

4. Conclusions

- **Of the analysis:**

- The bigger the distance between the cultural reference and the moment of translation is, the more the explicitation grade of the solutions grows.

- distance in time as a factor of influence

- The bigger the distance between cultures is, the smaller the cognitive context between the reader of the target text and the author of the source text is → more explicitation.

- distance between cultures as a factor of influence

4. Conclusions

- **Of the analysis:**

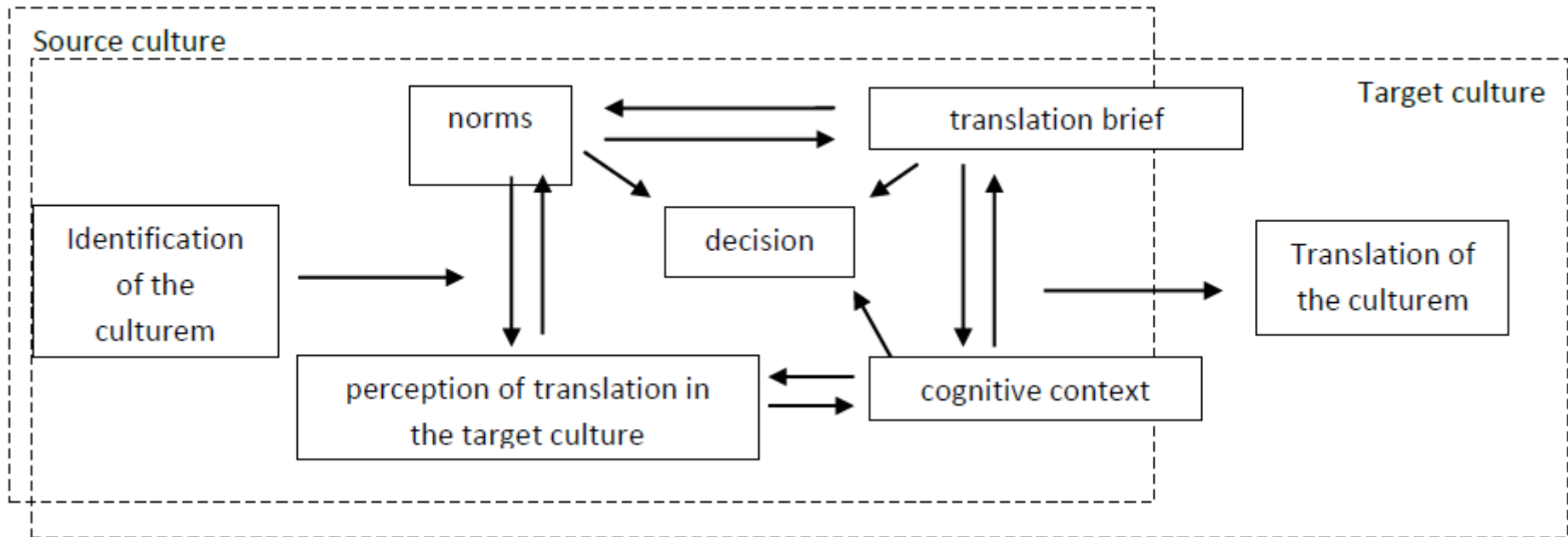
- Although the distance between cultures is a factor of influence, it is directly related to the initial norm and the preliminary norms

- norms as a factor of influence

- ! The concept of perception of translation in the target culture is at the same time a factor of influence in the dynamic negotiation of sense in translation as intercultural communication.

4. Conclusions

- **Of the model of dynamic negotiation of sense:**
+ Perception of translation in the target culture



4. Conclusions

- **Of the hypotheses:**

- 👍 Culturems are dynamic and this is reflected in the process of dynamic negotiation of sense between two particular cultures and in a particular moment.

5. The culturem database

- All culturems + classifications + translations + references
- Totally free access
- Free use of all data
- Creative Commons license

<http://christianolallasoler.es/culturemdatabase>

Culturem Database

Culturem translations into Spanish and German from Bulgakov's *A Dog's Heart*

Direct access to the database [here](#) (please read the following instructions if this is the first time you use it).

[español](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [русский](#)

1. **Introduction**
2. **How to use it**
3. **Legal information**
4. **Access to the database**

1. Introduction

The main aim of this database is to provide an exhaustive analysis of the translation of culturems into Spanish and German from Bulgakov's *A Dog's Heart*. Researchers in Translation and Intercultural Studies may find this database helpful for their own researches in transmission of culture in translation.

This database is the result of our master thesis, in which we analyzed the culturems in three translations of Bulgakov's *Собачье сердце* into Spanish and three into German. The database is available for free use under the CC-BY-NC-ND license.

EditGrid

Tabelle / ChristianOlalla / Culturem database. Culturem translations into

Datei Bearbeiten Ansicht Format Einfügen Daten Zugriffsbere

Neu
 Importieren...
 Speichern...
 Schließen
 Save As...
 Neue Version hochladen...
 Exportieren als
 Drucken
 Eigenschaften...
 Revisions
 Zurück zu meinem Arbeitsbereich

Excel (xls)
 HTML (html)
 CSV (csv)
 PDF (pdf)
 OpenDocument (ods)
 OpenOffice 1.x (sxc)
 Gnumeric (gnumeric)
 TeX Source (tex)
 Styled XML (xml)
 Simple XML (xml)
 My Data Format...

	B	
	TRANSLATION DECADE	
	1ST TRANS	
	80's	
10	RU - ES	
11	RU - DE	
12	RU - DE	
13	RU - DE	
14	RU - ES	
15	RU - ES	
16	RU - ES	90's
17	RU - DE	1ST TRANS
18	RU - DE	80's
19	RU - DE	90's

B	C	
ATION DECADE	CULTUREM CATEGORY	
ST TRANS	(All)	столовой
80's	(Top 10...)	столовой
90's	(Custom...)	столовой
ST TRANS	CULT. PATRIMONY	столовой
80's	CULTURAL INTERFERENCE	столовой
90's	LINGUISTIC CULTURE	столовой
	NAT. ENVIRONMENT	
	SOCIAL CULTURE	LINGUISTIC CULTURE
ST TRANS	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
80's	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
90's	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
ST TRANS	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
80's	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
90's	SOCIAL CULTURE	Централ
ST TRANS	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
80's	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
90's	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
ST TRANS	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
80's	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
90's	SOCIAL CULTURE	пролетар
ST TRANS	CULT. PATRIMONY	кашей
80's	CULT. PATRIMONY	кашей

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«не следует переводить слова, и даже иногда смысл, а главное — надо передавать впечатление»

А. К. Толстой

Thank you